



Hamden, Quinnipiac gear up for November's mayoral election

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CAMERON LEVASSEUR/HQNN

Snail mail: QU's package lockers failing to address the delays they were installed to eliminate

By **KATIE LANGLEY**
Editor-in-Chief

The transition to Quinnipiac University's new technologically smart locker package pickup system has spurred lengthy delays in the mail center's package processing, sometimes leaving residential students without access to their mail until several days after it has been delivered.

In a Sept. 15 email to residential students, John Scott, executive director of technology infrastructure, said the high volume of packages the mail center received during the first weeks of the semester left staff with a backlog of mail to process.

"We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and assure you we are doing everything we can to catch up and get back to a situation where mail and packages are delivered very soon after they arrive on campus," Scott wrote. "Each day we are catching up little by little and expect to be back to normal by the end of next week."

Kevin MacDougall, associate director of telephony, cabling infrastructure and administrative services, attributed the backlog to both the volume of mail and the "learning curve" associated with the new system.

MacDougall wrote that the mail center staff expects to eliminate the backlog by

Sept. 22 if inbound package deliveries continue at the current rate. On Sept. 20, he said, the mail center was still expecting to process packages delivered to campus on Sept. 18.

Meanwhile, students who live on campus reported nearly week-long delays.

Josh Brazinski, a first-year 3+1 film, television and media arts major, received a notification to pick up his package on Sept. 19, six days after it arrived on campus.

"I've just been really anxious that my package was lost or something like that, especially because I didn't have a tracking number, so I was worried that maybe it got lost in translation or the package just wasn't going to get delivered at all," Brazinski said.

The new high-tech system operates through nearly 1,000 self-service lockers in the student centers of the Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses. A student receives an alert via email or text message when their residential campus processes their package. From there, students can use the automated kiosks or the mobile app QTrak to open their assigned locker and pick up their package.

Although Brazinski said he appreciates the new tech-savvy system, he noted that he was frustrated by the delays it has caused.

"I like the concept, I think picking up packages is pretty easy, it's pretty independent, you

can just walk up and scan your card and get it," Brazinski said. "But at the same time, I'm not totally sure that it's effective."

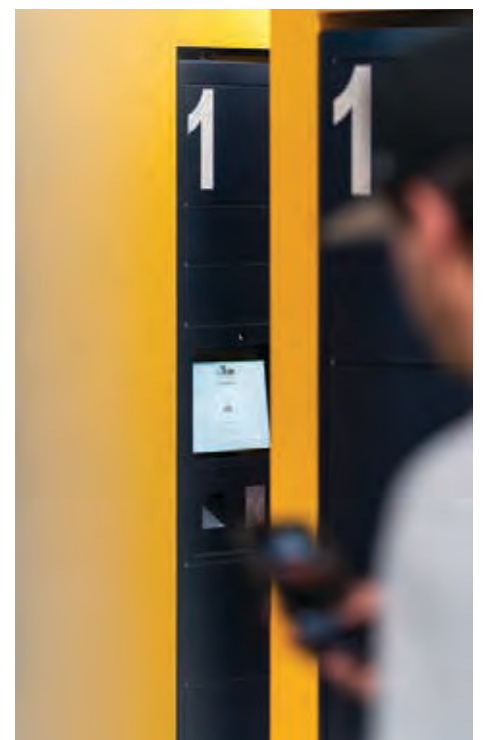
MacDougall said the volume of package deliveries is trending downward, meaning students should expect to start receiving their late packages soon.

"Once we are caught up (on deliveries) we plan to dig into the data and figure out how we can improve the process and match the volume," MacDougall wrote about the mail center staff's plan to prevent delays in the future.

Eventually, the staff hopes to transport packages to smart lockers within one day of receiving them, according to the Sept. 15 email from Information Technology Services. The delays are currently no different in the York Hill Campus mailroom than in the Mount Carmel Campus mailroom, MacDougall wrote.

Until the mail rooms are up-to-date, the digital signs outside both locker pickup areas will display information about expected delivery times. MacDougall encouraged students to pick up their packages in a timely manner to hasten the mail center's processing time.

"The faster packages are picked up, the quicker the lockers become available and that helps keep the receiving process run as efficiently as possible," MacDougall wrote.



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

Lengthy delays are still plaguing Quinnipiac University's mailrooms several weeks after officials unveiled tech-savvy package lockers on the Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses.

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Lauren Garrett wins Democratic primary, pivots toward general election

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett is preparing her reelection campaign for November’s general election after coming out on top in the town’s Democratic primary.

The Michigan-born incumbent seeking reelection to a second term as Hamden’s top government official won just over 56% of the vote in the Sept. 12 primary election against challenger Walter Morton IV.

Garrett took to Facebook just after 9:30 p.m. on election day — approximately 90 minutes after Hamden’s polls closed — to publicly announce her victory in the town’s 2023 Democratic primary election and commend Morton for a “spirited” race.

“Thank you Hamden Democrats for your vote of confidence for me along with our entire team, to continue our work for another term,” Garrett wrote in the Sept. 12 Facebook post. “Thank you Walter Morton for Mayor for your congratulations and I look forward to our conversations to come.”

Garrett faced off against Morton, a third-generation Hamden resident and a longtime member of the town’s Board of Education, in an hour-long primary debate less than a week earlier.

Touting not only her accomplishments as mayor but also her experience as a former legislative council member, school board chair, small business owner and parent of three, Garrett argued during the Sept. 8 debate that her background qualified her “to right the ship of Hamden.”

And when polls closed, nearly 2,700 Hamden Democrats agreed.

Unofficial election results published by the New Haven Register indicate that just under 4,800 of Hamden’s more than 61,000 residents voted in the town’s Sept. 12 primary.

This figure represents a nearly 10% decline in voter turnout since the town’s previous Democratic primary in 2021.

This level of turnout fluctuation can prove particularly monumental in municipal primaries that bring only about 8% of the town’s residents to the polls and are decided by hundreds, not thousands of votes.

“I feel like every vote counts,” said resident Adrienne Sprouse, who decided to vote in the town’s Sept. 12 primary despite only having lived in Hamden for just over a year. “Not that it’ll make or break anything, but it helps.”

Case in point, Garrett beat Morton by 593 votes. Comparatively, though, 527 fewer Hamden residents cast ballots in this year’s Democratic primary than did in 2021.

“I really hope that more folks come out and vote in November than they did in the primary,” Morton told The Chronicle. “I would hope that more Hamden residents get involved.”

“My expectation is Lauren Garrett will be reelected. My hope is she’ll be reelected with the help of Quinnipiac students.”

– Nick Fizzano

PRESIDENT, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY DEMOCRATS

But with the Democratic primary now behind her, Garrett is slated to take on Republican Crystal Dailey in the Nov. 7 general election.

Morton said after the primary that he was looking forward to “a good clean fight in the general.”

“And credit to them because it’s the first time in town history that the two nominees for mayor are both women,” Morton added. “Whoever wins, I definitely will still be calling Hamden home.”

Unlike Garrett, a former small business owner, Dailey is a veteran healthcare administrator who manages large hospital systems with inventories totaling \$500 million for health insurance provider Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Dailey joined the Board of Education earlier this year after surviving a confirmation process defined by interparty fighting that her electoral opponent seemed to incite. Garrett — who critics accused of attempting to interfere in Dailey’s confirmation — faced backlash when she encouraged other candidates to seek the board’s vacant Republican seat.

In a Sept. 17 email statement to The Chronicle, Dailey said she felt “really confident” about her electoral prospects this November.

“I want to speak to as many people as I can about our plans and what sets me apart from my opponent,” Dailey wrote, noting that she had already knocked on more than 4,000 Hamden doors to promote her mayoral campaign. “Everyone has a seat at the table, although my opponent views being bi-partisan as taboo.”

Dailey will likely face an uphill battle in the coming months regardless, though. Hamden’s general elections historically attract twice as many voters as the town’s primaries, but residents have not elected a Republican to the mayor’s office in more than a quarter-century.

Quinnipiac University’s two on-campus political organizations — the Quinnipiac Democrats and the Quinnipiac College Republicans — are also gearing up to prepare students for Hamden’s upcoming mayoral election.

“What matters to Quinnipiac is what mat-

ters to Hamden, and what happens in Hamden is going to affect us,” said Nick Fizzano, president of the Quinnipiac Democrats. “Even if you don’t think about it, what happens in this town matters.”

Although the Quinnipiac Democrats officially endorsed Morton’s mayoral campaign in the days preceding the primary, Fizzano said he and his organization were still invested in the upcoming election.

“Just because our preferred candidate in the primary lost doesn’t mean we’re sitting out,” Fizzano said. “I know I personally am excited to ensure that we keep a Democratic mayor here in this town and ensure we keep sustainable Democratic policies.”

But even though Quinnipiac’s two Hamden-based campuses account for roughly 2.4% of the town’s land, Fizzano pointed out the ways in which the university borderline isolates itself from the town of Hamden.

“I really like to think of it as like ‘The Simpsons Movie’ — the big bubble over Springfield,” the sophomore political science and history double major said. “That’s how it feels a lot here, where folks don’t know what’s going on outside.”

Accordingly, both of Quinnipiac’s political organizations held on-campus voter registration drives Tuesday to commemorate National Voter Registration Day.

“You already have lower turnout, generally, in these sort of off-year elections, but you also have disproportionately lower young turnout,” Fizzano said. “My expectation is Lauren Garrett will be reelected. My hope is she’ll be reelected with the help of Quinnipiac students.”

A spokesperson for the Quinnipiac College Republicans said the organization’s members were striving to provide community members access to “election resources and ways to be involved with local, state, and national elections.”

“Our focus at the present time is working with the Quinnipiac community next Tuesday for Voter Registration Day and getting our members involved in the core Republican values,” the spokesperson wrote in a Sept. 15 statement to The Chronicle.

In a Sept. 18 press release about Quinnipiac’s efforts to promote National Voter Registration Day, Kristen Bourgault, associate teaching professor of education, said “civic engagement should be a goal for all college graduates.”

“This year we are reminding students that every year is an election year, and elections at all levels are important — from town elections all the way to the presidency,” Bourgault wrote in the release.

Fizzano said he hoped bringing awareness to Hamden’s ongoing mayoral race would persuade more Quinnipiac students to participate in the upcoming election.

“We have to ensure that the policies that best represent us and the ideas that best help us are what make up the backbone of this campaign,” Fizzano said. “You can’t do that if you don’t vote. You can’t do that if you don’t get involved. And you can’t do that if you don’t pay attention.”

Amanda Madera contributed to this report.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

As Hamden voters prepare for the town’s Nov. 7 mayoral election, members of Quinnipiac University’s on-campus political organizations host voter registration tables on Sept. 19 to commemorate National Voter Registration Day.

‘It won’t be gone for a long time’: Rise in COVID cases affecting Quinnipiac

By SYDNEY KLASS and CARLEIGH BECK

As COVID-19 cases tick up statewide and local hospitals take in more patients for the virus, the coronavirus is once again impacting Quinnipiac University students.

An increasing number of people have reported being hospitalized for COVID-19 since mid-July. There was a 12.4% positive test rate and nearly 200 new COVID-19 hospitalizations in Connecticut alone in the second week of September.

Despite the increase of cases across the country, Quinnipiac officials have not reinstated the efforts university administrators have used in the past to monitor on-campus COVID-19 cases.

“There’s no official counting of COVID. That stopped a long time ago,” said Tom Ellett, Quinnipiac’s chief experience officer. “That’s not a requirement of the CDC. So, no, I don’t see us (starting to count coronavirus cases). I don’t know how we’d do it.”

Although university officials have not kept track of the number of COVID-19 cases on campus, medical professionals acknowledge that it is still prevalent today.

“I think the key is, (COVID-19 is) not gone and it won’t be gone for a long time,” said Dr. Paul Anthony, medical director for public health services and assistant director for infectious disease at Hartford Hospital. “If I had to stress a message to people ... just be mindful it’s still going to be around, and act accordingly.”

Although President Joe Biden’s administration officially ended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on May 11, Anthony stressed the continued importance of health precautions.

“If someone is sick, they should stay in their dorm room or at home ... they should not be around others,” Anthony said. “The other thing that people tend to oversee is washing your hands often, because people touch their faces several times an hour. And if you’re touching viruses, you’re bringing them where they need to be to cause disease.”

Some students expressed concerns that Quinnipiac’s overcrowded housing is causing an uptick in cases on campus.

“A lot of it is school related because we are cramped up (and) not as spaced out as

we used to be,” said Adjì Cisse, a junior business analytics major.

Even with crowded housing and the discovery of a new coronavirus variant, Quinnipiac officials are not offering at-home tests, but still have testing services at the student health center.

“We would suggest that students get their own COVID tests if they want,” Ellett said. “I think there would be a charge if you go to the student health center.”

University officials removed the at-home test vending machine from the entryway of the old health center on the Mount Carmel Campus and have not relocated it.

“Well, I feel like that’s a little problematic,” said Francesca Kama, a senior political science major. “I think they should verify if people did get some of the boosters, at least, gotten four shots total.”

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved a new coronavirus vaccine to prevent people from getting newer variants of the virus. Although Ellett said Quinnipiac officials plan to open vaccine appointments for students, the FDA has not yet provided the university with vaccine supplies.

compared to the original COVID is people losing their sense of smell and taste,” Anthony said. “We still see it occasionally, but it’s much less than (before).”

Anthony noted that COVID-19 symptoms often mimic allergies, which he said can create issues because it is also currently allergy season.

“I do tell people, even if you think it’s allergies, test yourself,” Anthony said. “If all the sudden your five friends start having allergy symptoms, it’s probably not allergies.”

Amid the increase in cases, some students said they want university officials to be more attentive to how COVID-19 affects students on campus.

“I think they should try to at least bring some more awareness to it because it is definitely spiking up,” said Nicholas Nardi, a first-year marketing major.

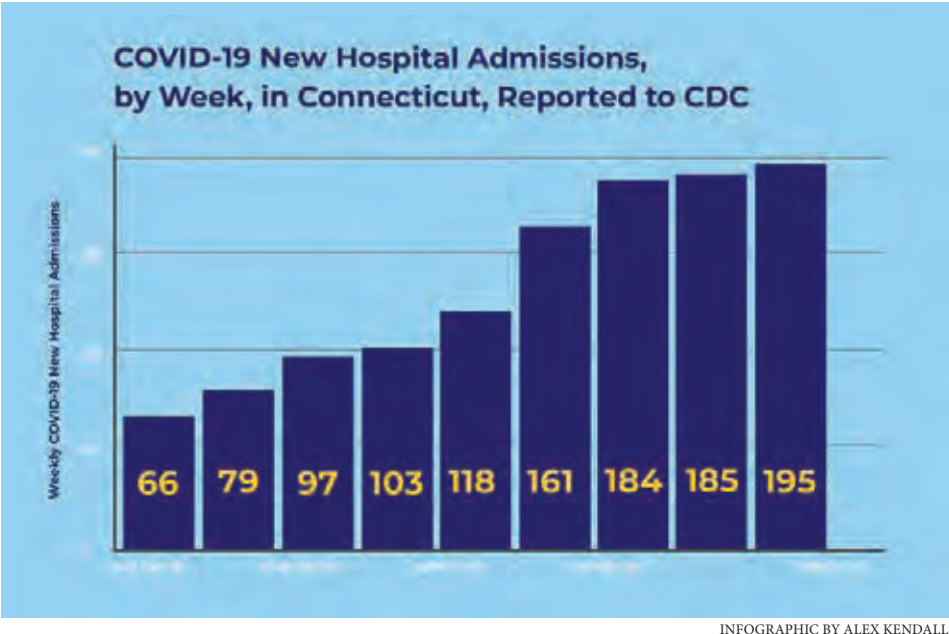
In a Sept. 13 email to students, Quinnipiac’s Office of Residential Life highlighted several key pieces of updated information about the coronavirus.

“If you were exposed, and symptomatic — get tested,” the email stated. “If you are asymptomatic, get tested after 5 full days after your last exposure, and continue precautions up to 10 days.”

The university’s COVID-19 guidelines instruct students who test positive for the virus to isolate in their on- or off-campus housing for at least five days, with the day they test positive counting as “day zero.” Students who test positive outside of the university’s health center must complete a self-reporting form.

Although Quinnipiac officials encourage students who test positive to go home, students who remain on campus throughout the duration of their isolation must wear masks in public spaces.

Students who do not experience symptoms of the virus can return to class — with a mask — after five days of isolation. However, the guidelines require students who experience mild or severe COVID-19 symptoms to isolate for the full 10-day period.



Internet issues prompt QU to launch technology alert system

By KRYSTAL MILLER
Associate News Editor

Quinnipiac University’s Information Technology Services is launching a website to update the community on technology-related incidents and scheduled maintenance.

University officials announced their intentions to create the platform after a series of internet outages affected the Mount Carmel Campus. John Scott, executive director of technology infrastructure, notified students, faculty and staff via email on Sept. 1 about the repeated interruptions to the university’s campus internet.

On Aug. 30 and Aug. 31 at around 2:40 p.m., there were short internet outages, which Scott explained resulted from efforts to resolve problems with certain entertainment devices, including Xbox and PlayStation consoles and Amazon Echo smart devices. Each year, new versions of these devices come out, which Scott added may require technology services to adjust the internet connection. One outage was around five minutes and the other was closer to 10, Scott said.

“An unexpected consequence was that

there was what’s called a failover of our wireless environment,” Scott said. “So, it has redundancy with multiple, essentially server controllers in the back end and when that failover occurs, there is a brief outage.”

Scott said he is not sure the exact number of students impacted, but he did mention that client services were receiving a lot of calls at the time of the outages.

“As we dug into the details of what occurred, we realized the scope was much larger and it was likely that many on campus were impacted,” the email stated.

Scott estimated that the technology services staff will complete the platform and add it to MyQ before the end of the semester. The new platform will allow faculty, staff and students to receive notifications via text or email about any technology-

related incidents, including widespread internet connectivity issues or ongoing maintenance.

“We’re pretty excited because we think the community in general will really benefit,” Scott said. “And the folks that really want to be alerted (in) real time anytime there’s any kind of incident — they can sign up.”

Isabelle Oloughlin, a first-year physical therapy major, said her internet connection has been pretty consistent but she has had some problems. One day, she added, she was entirely unable to log onto Blackboard.

“I feel like usually when (my internet) is not working, other people’s is not working as well,” Oloughlin said.

“It’s not just a me problem.”

Some students said the internet connection issues have been particularly prevalent in the Center for Communications and Engineering.

Lucas Morello, a senior mechanical engi-

neering major, said the internet problems he has experienced this semester have been far worse than in previous semesters. Morello recalled one specific instance earlier this semester in which the wireless connection repeatedly interrupted his mechatronics class.

“Our professor was showing the code on the screen and I think it dropped like three times during that class,” Morello said.

Students such as Meghan Herrighty, a first-year physical therapy major, said she would likely use the information technology services website.

“I think that it’s helpful because then at least we’re in the know if there is an issue,” Herrighty said.

Victoria Nicholls, a junior graphic design major, explained how the website could be useful in situations where students are confused about what is happening with the internet status.

“It won’t fix the problems, but I guess it will make people more aware,” Nicholls said.

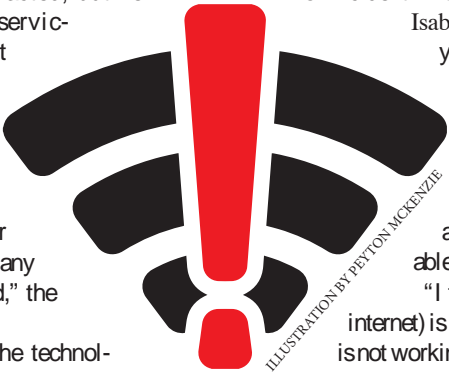


ILLUSTRATION BY PETTON MCKENZIE

Opinion

We aren’t doing enough for climate change

By A.J. NEWTH
Opinion Editor

People typically don’t feel a connection to an issue until it starts to affect them personally. When it comes to climate change, this year alone has been enough to affect countless individuals, including Quinnipiac University students.

When discussing a topic that’s been an issue since the 19th century, it’s helpful to first examine the whole picture.

The United Nations defines climate change as long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. This year, we saw several examples of how extreme the issue is becoming.

From the hottest summer on record, to coral bleaching in Florida, to Canadian wildfires that blanketed North America in smoggy skies and rising sea levels in Europe that threatened to put cities underwater, 2023 has definitely been a year of change, and not the good kind.

There’s a new headline practically every week listing another implication of climate change. I don’t think Quinnipiac students ever expected to experience it firsthand.

The first week of September is a week no Quinnipiac student will soon forget. It started with a four-day-long heat wave, not a fun experience considering most dorms lack air conditioning. As if the extreme heat wasn’t enough, the week ended with a thunderstorm that caused a power outage on York Hill Campus, even trapping a student in an elevator.

This isn’t the first time we’ve seen crazy weather on campus, as there has been persistent flooding on the Mount Carmel Campus over the past few years, and what’s to come will only get worse.

You may be thinking, “I’m just a college student, how can I possibly help with such a mas-

sive issue?” And while we can’t solve climate change problems overnight, there are several initiatives college students can take to start being more climate-conscious.

In an article for The Years Project, Anna Conkling lists the 10 easiest ways for college students to live more sustainably. Some notable examples are recycling, buying recycled products, cutting down on plastic usage and unplugging electronics once you’ve finished using them — one of the most common tasks that helps cut down carbon emissions.

Speaking of electricity, it’s tied with agriculture for the highest contributing sectors of carbon emissions at 22%, second only to industry at 24%. Following this is transport, other energy usage and construction, based on data from 2019 per the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Unplugging electronics while you’re not using them can help the slightest bit in cutting down. Imagine the impact if all of Quinnipiac had this mentality, or even universities around the nation. It starts small, but with enough people involved we can really make a difference.

There’s also several ways for students on campus to get involved to fight climate change, by joining political organizations or clubs like the Students for Environmental Action. Signing petitions and exercising your right to vote are other easy ways you can make a difference.

I’m well aware that while I could make a compelling argument on how college students can stop contributing to climate change, there is a much bigger enemy: the wealthy.

Recent data from the Stockholm Environment Institute shows that the wealthiest 1% of humanity is responsible for twice as many emissions as the poorest 50%. The data also shows



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

that by 2030 the uppermost class of individuals will have carbon footprints 30 times greater than the level compatible with goals set during the 2015 Paris Agreement, per Oxfam International.

This means that even if everyone in the middle and lower class started unplugging their toasters and laptop chargers after using them, we still probably wouldn’t dent the issue. But that doesn’t mean we should ignore it.

There could be negative impacts if greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at the current rate. It’s expected that we’ll see a warmer atmosphere, warmer and more acidic oceans, higher sea levels and larger changes in precipitation patterns, per the City of Chicago’s Climate Change site.

I understand that even after reading this, some individuals still won’t care.

The reality is that everything is connected, and it’s more than heatwaves, flooding and power loss. Climate Change destroys forest ecosystems, where we source lumber that goes into countless products we use everyday. It affects the

oceans, that not only aid in our weather but are a huge part of our environment and provide us with food. It affects agriculture and other ecosystems that are essential parts of our economy and our everyday lives.

As climate change worsens, habitats and ecosystems will be beyond evolution and will start to die. Once products become scarce, prices go up and the economy will see exacerbated inflation. Our climate quite literally affects everything.

How long are we willing to turn a blind eye? How much more flooding, torrential storms, hurricanes and extreme temperatures can we take?

When talking about climate change, I always hear the phrase, “not my problem.” There’s a common misconception that the issues we continue to contribute to will be left to the next generation to clean up (our children’s generation, nonetheless).

However, the impacts of climate change are only escalating, and if we don’t start making changes, we could feel those effects more than we ever anticipated.

Grass over greed: Turf fields are ruining the NFL

By TYLER PLATZ
Contributing Writer

The New York Jets’ season is over.

Despite their Sept. 11 win against the Buffalo Bills, this is the last week they will be in first place. It’s not because of a dirty play, it’s because of MetLife Stadium’s turf playing surface. In the first quarter, after just four plays, quarterback Aaron Rodgers tore his Achilles after a Bills sack.

Casual football fans may point fingers at the defender who prompted the injury, but fans who tune in to watch the NFL week-to-week know there is a much larger issue looming — several NFL stadiums forcing athletes to play on artificial turf.

Turf’s cushioning lessens athletes’ ability to use their bodies to absorb the force. At the professional level, there’s been a lot of stress on protecting players in recent years. It’s surprising that the correlation between artificial turf and player

injuries has only come to light in the last two to three years.

The NFL’s statement relating to player safety states that the league “is committed to advancing progress in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of sports-related injuries.”

While turf looks like a freshly cut lawn, it’s vastly different from what you’d find on a natural grass playing field. In place of real grass, turf utilizes nylon blades to create a natural grass look while avoiding the maintenance of a well-kept lawn.

Instead of dirt, there are rubber pellets under the nylon blades to give the surface some cushion. When a player jukes on turf, their joints absorb all the force as turf has less give than natural grass.

Currently, 17 of 32 NFL teams play their home games on artificial turf in 15 different stadiums. That’s more than half of the league sending its players out to compete on turf for at least

eight games during the season.

The NFL conducts a test conducted on every stadium to determine the hardness and playability of the playing surface called the Clegg test. Before a Lions-Panthers game on Dec. 24, 2022, Bank of America Stadium failed the Clegg test. Afterwards, players reached out to the Player’s Association, comparing the turfs hardness to concrete.

So why is the NFL so resistant to making real grass the standard for all 30 NFL stadiums?

It’s estimated that replacing these 15 turf fields with real grass would cost the NFL around \$12 million total. To the average American, that’s money that could last lifetimes. To the NFL, that’s pocket change. Its revenue last season was almost \$12 billion. Owners need to put aside their greed and protect their players.

NFL players have been very outspoken in the grass versus turf debate and are overwhelmingly on the side of common sense – putting in real grass fields to prevent injuries that continue to occur each season.

In the 2022 NFL season, during a Week 7 game between the Chargers and Seahawks, two key players went down with knee injuries while playing on SoFi Stadium’s turf.

DK Metcalf, star receiver for the Seahawks, injured his knee when he landed in awkward fashion, causing his planted foot to slip on the turf surface.

Much like Rodgers, Metcalf was carted off the field for further evaluations. While Metcalf’s injury turned out to be minor, the same couldn’t be said for Chargers cornerback J.C. Jackson, who ruptured a tendon in his knee and missed the remainder of last season.

There is no telling if these two injuries would

have occurred on natural grass, but the biggest takeaway here is how both were lower-body, non-contact injuries.

In an article discussing the effects turf has on players, former NFL center and current president of the Player’s Association, JC Tretter, explained how “players have a 28% higher rate of non-contact lower extremity injuries when playing on artificial turf.”

Former players aren’t the only ones talking about the ongoing grass-turf debate as many players currently on active rosters are making their opinions known through social media.

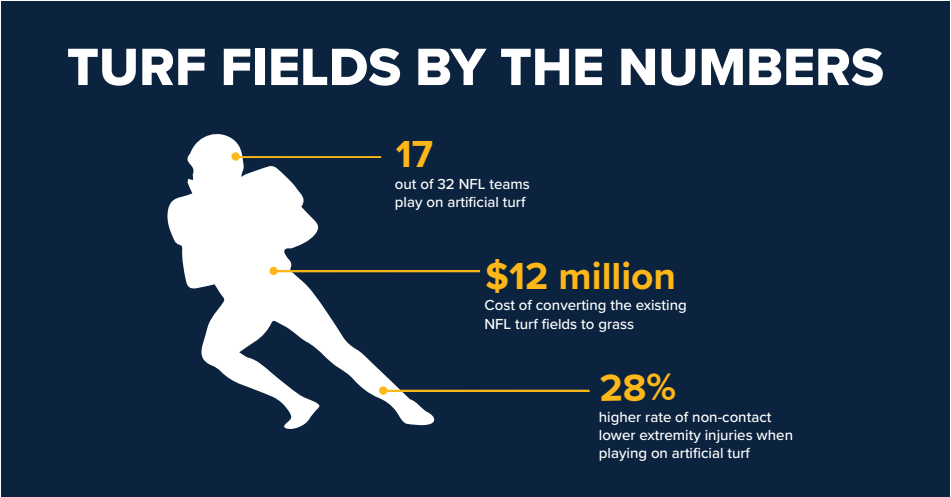
David Bakhtiari, a current Green Bay Packers offensive tackle, took to X to voice his displeasure with what 13 million people witnessed during Monday Night Football’s premiere.

“Congrats @NFL. How many more players have to get hurt on ARTIFICIAL TURF??! You care more about soccer players than us. You plan to remove all artificial turf for the World Cup coming up. So clearly it’s feasible. I’m sick of this. Do better!”

What Bakhtiari is referring to is the 2026 FIFA World Cup, set to take place in North America. 11 of the 16 stadiums hosting soccer matches are also home to NFL franchises. FIFA insisted that all matches will be played on natural grass and is requiring the seven stadiums with turf to install new fields ahead of the 2026 tournament.

Why are substandard playing conditions on turf fields OK for the NFL’s players, yet soccer players will get natural grass in three years?

In a perfect football world, every NFL snap would take place on real grass. No more preventable injuries, no more greed, no more artificial turf.



INFOGRAPHIC BY LINDSEY KOMSON

Opinion

On the Rocks is misused and under-utilized

By MICHAEL LAROCCA
Opinion Editor

Incredible wait times, slightly above average food, average entertainment and mediocre service. Those are all things a restaurant cannot have when it is only open two days a week for eight hours total.

The Rocky Top Student Center on Quinnipiac University's York Hill Campus opened in August 2010. Nearly a decade later, On the Rocks Pub and Grill opened right inside, becoming a marquee spot for the school to market toward prospective students. In the time since, the university's own restaurant has just been disappointing.

On the Rocks is an dining option that allows students to have a restaurant-style experience without leaving the confines of Quinnipiac's campus. There are exclusive meals, pool tables, dozens of televisions and for those of age, the option to purchase alcoholic beverages.

The whole experience sounds too good to be true. In a sense, it is.

The facility is advertised online by Quinnipiac as "a regular spot to casually meet with friends," which based on the facility's hours, is a huge stretch.

Since its complete opening in October 2021, the pub has only ever been open two days a week from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Based on those hours, it's nearly impossible to make On the Rocks a regular place to visit.

Two days a week was forgivable in 2021 and 2022, when it was open on Monday and Thursday. On the Rocks was a place to watch football and otherwise kick off or wind down your week.

However for 2023, management chose to open the restaurant Wednesdays and Thursdays. Back-to-back days, smack dab in the middle of the week.

Before, students were able to space out their On the Rocks trips throughout the week. But now, the choice needs to be made between going only once during the week or going twice in a row. And if someone has classes that run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., they're basically out of luck.

Being open until 10 p.m. has the potential to help York Hill residents with late classes get some food at night, since the dining hall closes at 9 p.m., which is a problem in itself. But that option is only available two of the four days where classes go that late.

On the Rocks is open so infrequently that it is not listed as an option on Quinnipiac Dining's hours of operation page. More often than not, on nights that the restaurant is closed, the booths are used by students as a quiet, comfy place to study.

It was never meant to be this way. On the Rocks opened in February 2020, a little bit before the university shut down amid the onset of COVID-19. While the hours were going to be limited that semester, an article by QUToday from Feb. 28, 2020, said, "The goal is to eventually have the space open five days a week beginning in the (2020) fall (semester)."

That statement now begs the question: "how far back did COVID-19 set the development of On the Rocks?"

Five days a week seems unfathomable with how the facility's been run over the past three years, but it had to have been possible at one point or another.

This semester, On the Rocks made its grand opening on Thursday, Sept. 14. When talking to a group of students dining that night, their consensus was that the facility needed to be open more than two days a week.

Sometimes On the Rocks is open one or two extra days a week, the days when men's ice hockey plays at home. That stipulation adds nine more days this semester for students to enjoy the pub's offerings, but there are so many opportunities for the space to be better utilized that the school chooses not to exercise.

Notably, On the Rocks was not open for either of the men's ice hockey team's games during its NCAA Frozen Four run this past spring. What was arguably the biggest moment in university history was not enough for the restaurant to be open an extra two days for students who wanted to experience the games together. Instead, small gatherings were held literal steps away in the Rocky Top seating area.

Without regular weekend hours, the restaurant also misses out on the chance to take hold of a regular crowd that comes to watch college football on Saturdays and professional football on Sundays. Being open during the evening has its perks, but a Sunday afternoon schedule

could be quite popular if On the Rocks chooses to go that route and markets it well.

Marketing is something the restaurant currently does not succeed at. The only way it spreads the word is through its Instagram account, which is completely separate from Quinnipiac Dining's social media, an account that has nearly 3,000 more followers.

The Quinnipiac website doesn't promote the facility either. Prior to the 2023 "grand opening," the website did not mention On the Rocks. The only way to read about it on the site was to look at the event calendar, where it was mentioned at the absolute bottom.

This is an amazing facility that has the opportunity to be the cornerstone of the York Hill campus, and if it's wasted through limited hours and poor publicity.

Quinnipiac takes pride in the fact that On the Rocks is fully student-managed, but is this the place to be experimenting in that fashion?

When run and staffed by university students, an on-campus restaurant is limited to the hours said students have free in their schedules. If the facility was run instead by a third-party company like Chartwells, which manages the rest of the university's dining, then maybe there wouldn't be a problem.

Chartwells employees already run the kitchen aspect of On the Rocks, so why not go back to how it was in 2021 and have the company manage the whole operation? Or, if the student-run nature of the place is non-negotiable, why not just hire more students?

Management can do so many things to make the pub more prevalent on campus, not just a place where people go on special occasions.

The concept and atmosphere of On the Rocks is unmatched across the entire Quinnipiac community. It can be nearly anything it wants to be. It should be the hub of all social events on the York Hill Campus. Instead, students have to find out through word of mouth when it is open compared to it being an intuitive thing.

And if the restaurant being open more isn't the point, then why is it hyped up so much?



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

On the Rocks Pub and Grill is open weekly on wednesdays and thursdays.



Take care of your credit score

DISCLAIMER: This piece is strictly based on the opinions and experiences of the writer and should not be viewed as a substitute for professional financial advice.

By A.J. NEWTH
Opinion Editor

I think I'm the only college student I know who regularly checks their credit score.

I opened my first credit card the day I turned 18 and was ecstatic to start buying whatever I wanted with a limit of \$1,000. I soon realized that my spending habits were a little tricky to control once the next month came and all my Target purchases needed to be paid back.

With the card came a credit score, something that was completely new to me. I only knew it was a fun-colored dial that popped up every time I logged into my bank, and that I wanted the arrow to be in the green sector, but I wasn't sure why.

A credit score is a prediction of your credit behavior, like how likely you are to pay back your debt, and it follows you for the rest of your life, per the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

This means that not only was my

score predicting my timeliness of paying back my purchases, but lenders would also see the score when I applied for college loans later that year, and when I bought my first car in June 2023.

There are a lot of things that affect your credit score, but the simplest breakdown is as follows: score rating, payment history, credit usage, account mix, credit age and inquiries, per Nerd Wallet.

These measure your creditworthiness based on your score, how often you pay back your credit, how much of your credit you use, how many installment accounts you have (like credit cards, loans or real estate), how long you've been using credit and how many times outside institutions requests to view your credit file.

Your score can fluctuate frequently, and once you start taking an interest in it, one of the hardest things to adjust to is that changes may take time, especially when it comes to credit age. Institutions are less likely to loan you money if

you're new to the credit world, because they haven't determined if you're trustworthy enough to pay off your debt yet.

Young credit age can really bring down your score and there's not much you can do about it.

Credit scores are a lot of give and take, but they can be super beneficial later in life. If you're just starting your credit journey, I highly recommend opening a Capital One account because it is simple to use and has a credit card designed especially for students.

Being vigilant and making sure you pay back the money you borrow and limit how many accounts you open over a short period of time are a few easy tips to maintain a good score.

If you're thinking about opening a credit card, start now. It's never too late to start your credit journey. The sooner you start, the better, because it takes a while to build a solid score.

Having good credit could be what tips the scales for your future purchases, so start now and score big later.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Joe Cool is back in school

A first-year student's Snoopy drawings have taken over campus

By AIDAN SHEEDY
Photography Editor

There is a first-year student that hundreds of Quinnipiac University students have already met – they just don’t realize it. Political science major Sasha Caracciolo is not known by name or grade, but by her index card caricatures of an iconic white beagle.

“We’ve been really trying to hunt down the Snoopy culprit,” sophomore biology major Olivia St. Clair said. “It’s just ... how can you not like Snoopy?”

Actually, that was Caracciolo’s exact motive.

After moving in on Aug. 22, she did what every other first-year has done — find their classes.

“Every time I walked into a classroom, I’d see a whiteboard or a chalkboard,” Caracciolo said. “I thought ‘what’s something easy, fun and simple (to draw)?”

Thus, a third-floor Tator Hall chalkboard became the first canvas for an ongoing student art project. Then, Center for Communications and Engineering 207 was hit, along with the lecture-hall-sized whiteboard in the Mt. Carmel Auditorium. So, Caracciolo began sending pictures to her orientation leader, Louis Brodsky. Jokingly, he bet her that he could erase all the Snoopy drawings, but Caracciolo wasn’t losing this battle.

“I’m gonna make too many for you to erase,” Caracciolo told him. “And that’s where the paper Snoopys came in.”

According to Caracciolo, she’s already made dozens of drawings this semester. Each drawing only takes 3-5 minutes, but the impressions last exponentially longer. The different Snoopy archetypes have ranged from Batman Snoopy, to Detective Snoopy, to

Fishing Snoopy and Pirate Snoopy.

“I didn’t know they were gonna gain that much traction, but they did,” Caracciolo said. “It’s a never-ending Snoopy.”

Her Instagram account, @snoopy_at_qu, spawned from the infamous Class of 2027 Snapchat as Caracciolo would add a post each time she completed a drawing. The account amassed 100 followers in about 10 days and sophomore finance major Suzeline Cadestin has been following every step of the way.

“I first saw it on the Class of 2027 page ... which is funny because I’m not even in the Class of 2027,” Cadestin said. “It’s so chaotic on there but those drawing are just so cute and it just brings a little bit of joy to everyone.”

Caracciolo even enjoys making the Snoopys part of the scene. She’s made a Public Safety Snoopy for the Public Safety office window and a Gym Snoopy for the lateral pull-down bar in the Recreation and Wellness center. Even a Barista Snoopy made an appearance at Starbucks.

Along with her two siblings, Caracciolo spent the first six years of her life overseas in Armenia and Georgia. Her father held many high positions, including a Georgian diplomat, and her mother was also a diplomat but ceased working when the triplets were born.

As a result, art was at the forefront of Caracciolo’s childhood. Being home with the kids allowed her mom to foster their creativity.

“I started drawing when I was a month old,” Caracciolo said. “My mom would give us fingerpaint and let us paint all over the walls. Then, she’d clean it off and we’d do it all over again.”

Caracciolo said her mom owned a white Jeep and let them take acrylic paint and cover the car. One sibling would always paint flames, while

Caracciolo would make unicorns. One time, a police officer pulled her mother over suspecting an act of vandalism.

After seeing the 2015 animated film “The Peanuts Movie,” Caracciolo remembers her first fascination with the Charles Schulz characters. She became attached to one dog in particular.

“(Snoopy) has so much emotion in him,” she said. “He’s so expressive though he never actually spoke.”

She also enjoys his other sides, and that doesn’t just mean “Joe Cool” or the World War I flying ace.

“He’s very eccentric. I love eccentric characters,” she said. “He’s also very mischievous ... I can relate to that, I like to have fun too, you know?”

By high school, Caracciolo said art began to feel like a chore, so she focused on other academic interests more and left her artistic side in a more personal place.

“I have a lot of different interests and a lot of different passions and I want to fuel all of them,” Caracciolo said. “I think you should always do something that fulfills your soul.”

That’s the philosophy that drives Caracciolo to become the best version of herself in college. She knows her passion can take her places without it being her major.

“I knew I wanted to get involved somehow, I knew I wanted to make a name for myself here,” Caracciolo said. “I was aware that if people liked it, it could turn into something big and I was willing to take that risk.”



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

First-year political science major Sasha Caracciolo turns the iconic Peanuts character Snoopy into a positivity-spreading art project for other students to enjoy during her first week on campus.

Rodrigo sends mixed messages with latest album 'Guts'

By **JACK MUSCATELLO, MICHAEL LARocca and PEYTON MCKENZIE**

Olivia Rodrigo, who burst on the scene two years ago with heartfelt and relatable narratives about modern breakups, attempted to branch out of that shell with her sophomore album “Guts,” which was released on Sept. 8.

And obviously — as three 20-year-old men in committed relationships — we are supremely qualified to review her efforts.

She opens her latest collection with “all-american bitch,” focusing on the ironies of life as a woman today with a punk-rock tone-setter. The song’s calm opening verse gives way to an instantly memorable chorus, exclaiming that her “place” in the world as a 20-year old woman is perfect as it is.

She keeps up her rock-infused style later on in the album with “bad idea right?” and “ballad of a homeschooled girl,” though the latter features a strange vocal filter that masks much of her natural talent. It’s a strange choice, and lends to a feeling of “overproduction” that takes away some of the impact of her lyrics.

But while on the subject, Rodrigo’s lyricism is a standout element throughout “Guts.” Her commentary on societal expectations speaks in many ways to the eldest members of Gen Z, touching on the unattainable pursuit of perfection in the digital, and highly judgemental, modern world we now live in.

Her best-written work across the album is “making the bed,” which summarizes

her frustrations with fame and the superstar status that suddenly befell her after “Sour” first released. Its slower pace breaks what could easily be a monotonous set of singles, and her use of metaphor is simple but easy to latch onto as a listener.

Particularly, her line “And I’m playin’ the victim so well in my head, But it’s me who’s been makin’ the bed” highlights an interesting take on the responsibility of fame, and how she blames herself for the current state of her public image. If the entire album focused on deconstructing this message, “Guts” could be a real tour-de-force.

Unfortunately, several songs seem to work against this far more interesting narrative.

The aforementioned “bad idea right?” a proper single on its own, fails to fit its own message within the confines of the entire album. The idea of returning to one’s ex makes for a fun song to blast with friends in the car, but it simultaneously undermines the very next song “vampire,” which discusses her ex as a toxic manipulator.

It seems Rodrigo was trying to make an album of ironic contradictions, given the strange juxtaposition of these two songs, but it comes across more random and off-putting than anything else.

This same pattern rears its head later on with “logical,” “get him back!” and “love is embarrassing” making up a middle chunk of the album. In “logical” and “love is embarrassing,” Rodrigo’s stream of consciousness about loss in relationships



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

is striking and interesting, matched by the melancholic pacing of these two songs.

But once again, that intrigue is nearly unraveled by “get him back,” a loud anthem that speaks to revenge over her ex. On its own, it’s also fun, light and easy to revisit. But like the aforementioned singles, it doesn’t have a proper home within the album.

She concludes “Guts” with a set that thankfully returns to her themes of self reflection and brutal honesty. But, as nice as it is to see this new thematic direction round out the album, the songs themselves are not as easy to revisit. Outside of their fitting lyrics, “the grudge” and “teenage dream” in particular feel like rhythmic filler and more of a production afterthought.

Essentially, what can be taken away from “Guts” is a handful of memorable singles, but an unfortunate realization that Rodrigo hasn’t yet branched out of the teenage lighting-in-a-bottle perspective that shot her to the top of the charts in 2021.

It would have been a breath of fresh air to hear her thematic underpinnings of reflection, healing and growth make their way across the full 39 minutes. The meltdown of young love that she so brilliantly deconstructed in “Sour” was amazing two summers ago, and it’s unfortunate that many of her singles here try a bit too hard to mimic that same success.

But again, we’re just three guys. And we’ll definitely be listening to “Guts” on repeat for weeks to come.

Is the world ready for a new Ye album?

By **MICHAEL PETITTO**
Staff Writer

Artist, music producer and fashion designer, Ye (formerly known as Kanye West) is currently working on what would be his 11th solo studio album. However, the past year has made it difficult to predict what Ye’s next move will be, as he’s been making headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Ye appeared as a guest on InfoWars, a show hosted by right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, where he made controversial and antisemitic remarks. Jones, who has never shied away from controversy himself, seemed to hold Ye back on multiple occasions. The rapper praised Hitler, made antisemitic statements and discussed his meetings with former President Donald Trump.

“The Jewish media has made us feel like the Nazis and Hitler have never offered anything of value to the world,” Ye said during the show. “I see good things about Hitler, also.”

Following his antisemitic rant, Ye was suspended from X by CEO Elon Musk.

In the following months, Ye went off the grid, leaving the United States to travel to Japan with his partner, Bianca Censori. Ye is currently staying in Italy, rebranding Yeezy following the brand’s split from Adidas and working on new music with frequent collaborators such as rappers Ty Dolla \$ign and Cyhi The Prynce.

It has been nine months since the rapper appeared on InfoWars and the time away from the limelight has seemingly repaired at least some of his broken public image. Ye recently hit a new peak on Spotify with an astounding 58 million monthly listeners, though his

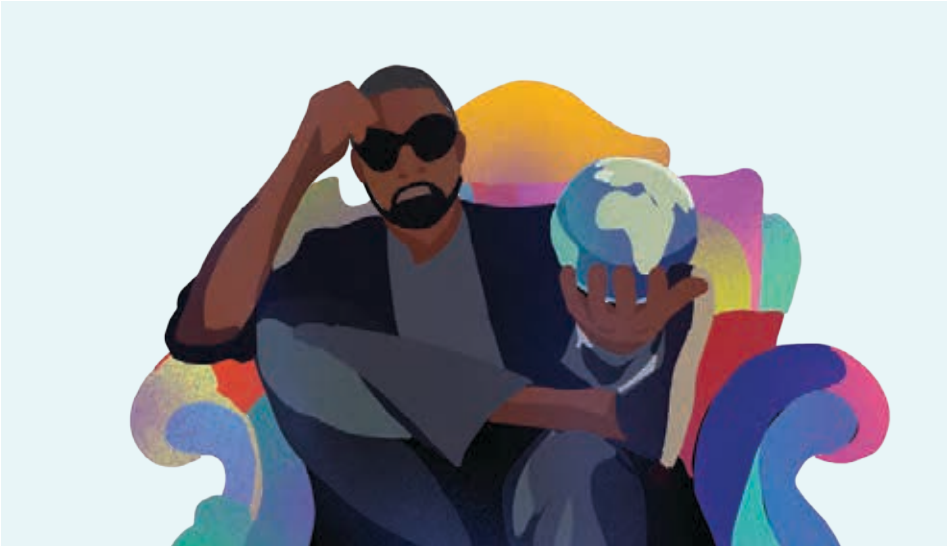


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

latest release was a feature on Sean Leon’s November 2022 single “Burn Everything.”

Ye originally planned his newest album for early 2022, a self-titled sequel to his 2021 project “Donda.” “Donda 2” was supposed to launch on Feb. 22, 2022 and only be available on Stem Player, a device that allows the user to separate and isolate vocals from songs. What the public got instead was an unfinished project that was never officially released.

The only songs to get an official release on streaming services from the project was “True Love,” featuring a post-mortem verse from rapper XXXTentacion, and “City of Gods,” a collaboration with Fivio Foreign and Alicia Keys. Following Ye’s tumultuous 2022, Stem Player cut all ties with the rapper and has since removed the unfinished “Donda 2” from the website.

Despite his controversial statements and self-exile, public demand for new Ye music has seemingly increased. Singer Steve Lacy shared a recent snippet of Ye’s new music on social media on Sept. 1, garnering mass attention on social media, getting over a million views on X and starting the conversation on whether or not the world is ready for a new Ye album.

Although public support for the artist has increased over the past six months, there are still plenty of people who refuse to associate with Ye, including former collaborator John Legend.

“We have not been friends for a while now,” Legend told New York Magazine. “And so I’m not personally doing anything, but I do know people who are, and a lot of people are concerned about him.”

On the flipside, celebrities have recently

begun to praise the Chicago native in public again. Hip-hop artist Don Toliver spoke about how Ye made him fall in love with the hip-hop genre during the VMA Awards.

“He really inspired me as a kid and kept going till today,” Toliver said.

Although a return to form for Ye would please the many fans of the artist along with fans of the hip-hop genre, it seems as though the general public has not forgiven or forgotten the harmful statements he made about Jewish people and others.

In addition to Adidas terminating Ye’s fashion deal, Apple Music removed all playlists featuring the artist from their service in December 2022 and have yet to place them back, along with many other companies and artists dissociating with the controversial rapper. Despite this, it seems like new music from Ye is imminent, as just last month he appeared on stage for the first time since his antisemitism controversy when he joined Travis Scott for his “Utopia” album release concert in Rome.

“There is no ‘Utopia’ without Kanye West,” Scott said to the crowd. “There is no Travis Scott without Kanye West. There is no Rome without Kanye West!”

However, the question might not be if the world is ready for Ye to return, but if he is ready to return to the world. If the rapper were to return to the spotlight and repeat the same antisemitic and dangerous statements he made in December 2022, it would likely mean the end for his career in music, fashion and business.

Only time will be able to tell whether or not Ye actually makes a return to the public, and whether or not that return comes with

It's time to spend your summer at 'Theater Camp'

By **ZOE LEONE**
Arts & Life Editor

“Theater Camp” starts with a coma. In the middle of an elementary school production of “Bye, Bye Birdie,” Joan Rubinsky (Amy Sedaris) — the beloved owner of the famed local theater camp, Adirond-ACTS — suffers a seizure due to the flashing lights of the surprisingly high-budget performance. She collapses to the floor, completely unresponsive. In the somewhat prolific words of her son, Troy Rubinsky (Jimmy Tatro), “Long story short, theater gave my mom a coma.” And due to that coma, it’s now his responsibility to lead the Adirond-ACTS through another successful summer of musicals, dances and a whole slew of eccentric kids. Easier said than done. As if an unresponsive mother isn’t enough, the sudden threat of foreclosure makes the summer far more dramatic than any production. And with a cast of characters this quirky, that’s a hard feat to do. With Troy Rubinsky in charge of a gaggle of theater kids he has no idea what to do with — they call him ‘cishet bitch’ in the middle of a pep talk — the long-standing counselors are relied on more than ever... and their personalities that are almost as big, if not bigger, than their talents. Two of the most notable features in the summer camp cast are Molly Gordon and Ben Platt as the delightfully chaotic best friend duo of Rebecca-Diane and Amos Klobuchar,

two counselors and longtime attendees of Adirond-ACTS. They’re on an overgrown-theater-kid level that only serves to deliver some of the best scenes of the movie. When the campers are auditioning for the upcoming summer musicals, a ten-year-old takes to the stage to perform “I Dreamed a Dream” from “Les Misérables.” Klobuchar’s reaction? “I do believe her as a French prostitute... I’m sorry, I’m sorry, sex worker,” he corrects upon a face from Rebecca-Diane. It’s the kind of absurdist energy that drives the movie and makes Glenn Winthrop (Noah Galvin) — the resident tech manager extraordinaire who secretly yearns to take centerstage — a scene stealer throughout his arc of self-discovery in the film. Galvin’s perpetual deer-in-headlights facial expressions and soft-spoken voice eventually bleed away to one of the best plot twists in the film. The cast is chock-full of talent, which is why it’s so unfortunate that Ayo Edebiri as Janet Walch, a jack-of-all-trades stage fighting instructor who lies on her resume, is so underused. Edebiri brings a goofy dryness to the movie that beautifully balances out the over-the-top personalities of the characters around her. Her one-liners are a bright spot in the film, which is why it’s unfortunate there’s so few of them. And yet, “Theater Camp” is a comedy still worth watching. Theater kids are generally regarded as crazy and

insufferable, but it makes you love and root for them anyways. The idiosyncrasies of the adult and kid cast alike only serve to make each drama queen even more interesting. There’s no shortage of talent, from the impressive group of child actors playing the campers to the Broadway and musical theater veterans that round out the adult cast. There’s never a stray note, a weak pirouette or the usage of cry sticks... except maybe just once (Rebecca-Diane falls dramatically to her knees as she begs her young actor to “get off the stick”).

“Theater Camp” cares about the family behind the divas, and that’s where the heart of the movie lies. At a mixer with the rival rich-kid camp from across the lake, snobby middle schoolers watch on as the camp kids pour in wearing tie-dye and friendship bracelets. But they don’t care. They still party to dance-remixes of Broadway classics like no one is watching. So as they say at Adirond-ACTS, “you can’t spell community without coma.” And after watching “Theater Camp,” why would you ever want to?



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

Why do we still care about 'Jennifer's Body'?

By **ZOE LEONE**
Arts & Life Editor

On Sept. 18, 2009, “Jennifer’s Body” premiered in theaters. The film barely doubled its budget at the box office, received mixed reviews from critics and a measly 46% on Rotten Tomatoes. And yet nearly 14 years later to the day, “Jennifer’s Body” is regarded as a cult classic. The movie has been logged around 739,000 times on the popular movie review social media app, Letterboxd. The #jennifersbody tag on TikTok has amassed over two billion views. And Halsey, an outspoken fan of the movie, sampled a deleted scene from the film in the intro to

her 2020 song, “killing boys.” So with all of this new-found love for the movie, it begs the question: why do we now love “Jennifer’s Body” so much? Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that 2009 audiences lived in a very different world than 2023 ones. When the film first premiered, reviewers chalked the movie up to an over-sexualized, lame attempt at a horror film. The nuances and clever writing of writer Diablo Cody’s script were simply lost on theater-goers who were largely too preoccupied by star Megan Fox in a mini-skirt. And yet, for current-day audiences, “Jennifer’s Body” conveys a completely

different message. The film follows popular high school girl Jennifer Check (Fox), and her unlikely, unbreakable and rather homoerotic friendship with Needy Lesnicki (Amanda Seyfried). When a night out gone wrong sees Check turned into a succubus who quenches her appetite on their high school’s male population, it’s up to Lesnicki to put a stop to the gore. “Jennifer’s Body” presents a much-needed contrast to the horror genre. Instead of sitting through young women being slaughtered throughout an entire film, their sexuality flaunted and exploited as they’re sent to their deaths, Check is the one taking the reins and doing the devouring. Instead of preying on the stereotypical naive woman, she leverages the shameless lust of the high school boys trying to get in her bed and rips them apart from limb-to-limb. Perhaps the famed quote featured in “killing boys” says it best. Lesnicki lectures Check, saying, “You’re killing people!” Check merely rolls her eyes. “No,” she drawls. “I’m killing boys.” Now, that’s not to say the brutal murder of high school boys should be encouraged. But it’s worth noting that “Jennifer’s Body” examines feminism and a woman’s place in society through much more than demonic killings. Check goes from high schooler to demon thanks to a visit to a bar gig to see a barely-famous band with Lesnicki. The band, who are made up of men much older than teenage Check, single her out for what’s proposed as an exclusive after-party. In reality, they’re

planning a virgin sacrifice, with hopes that it will lead them to the fame they’ve always dreamed up. They take Check to the woods, tie her up and brutally stab her to death while singing and laughing tauntingly at her. While she’s really not a virgin — this is the reason she transforms into a succubus instead of dying — it doesn’t change the fact that she’s a young girl, preyed upon and slaughtered by greedy men desperate for more than life has given them. Therefore, Check’s merciless killings of horny high school boys who make moon-eyes at her in the hallway becomes a little more understandable. It’s a tongue-in-cheek, horror twist that’s practically feminism if you look at it a certain way. All in all, “Jennifer’s Body” has perhaps created a longevity amongst 21st-century audiences because it toys with a reversed patriarchal system, one where a woman holds the power. But maybe it’s also just because the movie is simply fun. Fox and Seyfried have a twisted friendship with far more chemistry than can be interpreted as platonic. Their scenes are iconic, with quotes that fans of the movie can spout off on demand. The gore and the sexuality of the film go hand-in-hand to create a horror film that’s just as sexy as it is disturbing. “Jennifer’s Body” simply isn’t going anywhere. So whether it’s the pretty girls, the funny one-liners or the bloody murders, there’s sure to be something for everyone.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

Laufey brings jazz to a new audience in 'Bewitched'

By **ZACHARY REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Icelandic-Chinese jazz singer and TikTok microcelebrity Laufey has outdone herself by providing a new, genre-bending album in “Bewitched,” following her first studio album, “Everything I Know About Love.”

Laufey was trained in classical music by her family (all string players), and formally trained in jazz at Berklee College of Music, so making sure that all her songs were recorded from live music was a priority.

“For my next album (Bewitched) I really decided to lean into my roots,” Laufey said in an interview with the Zach Sang Show. “I knew I wanted to take jazz music, classical sounds, strings and stuff and introduce it to a new audience of listeners.”

This new approach worked, as Laufey broke streaming records left and right for highest streamed jazz song of all time and highest streamed jazz debut album.

The album begins with “Dreamer,” and you’re immediately hit with flowery harmonies right out of the gate. Laufey whisks you away to her world; one where love is the only thing on her mind, and thoughts (mostly anxieties) of boys float gracefully into the listener’s ears. As the drums and piano enter softly, the song builds. Then, Laufey takes two quick beats and proclaims, “No boy’s gonna kill the dreamer in me.”

This line is a perfect one to begin this album with because “Bewitched” is an album about love. However, what makes it so perfect is that Laufey picked the name of the album before she even began writing the music.

Laufey explained that she writes both songs and albums in a backwards way. She starts with a feeling, whether that’s being second best or feeling haunted by a lover leaving. The song titles are the essence of the song, and then she

writes the song around them.

The next big highlight comes in the form of “Lovesick.” The initial guitar fades into the background as the piano takes charge in the second verse, and then you hear more stunning string swells in the chorus that give it the sense of grandeur that you likely long to experience.

Laufey collaborated with the world-famous, London-based Philharmonia Orchestra on the next song, “California and Me,” which definitely sticks out thematically compared to the rest of the songs off the album. Laufey touches on the feeling of her home being lost, now that she’s lost her lover. It’s one that’s absolutely crushing, but you can’t help but feel warm thanks to the sharp staccato notes from the flute and crescendo of the clarinets and strings.

The next two songs are viral singles with two completely different vibes. In “Promise,” Laufey feels that love is some sick addiction she can’t be free of, singing in one lyric, “I should get a cigarette for so much restraint.”

This line references how she wants to call an ex so badly, and she has to promise herself not to give in. She eventually falters after “16 long days,” which is a direct reference to an actual experience of hers. Laufey’s known for including little tidbits about her real life, and this one just hits the listener where it hurts.

Next up is the album’s hit, currently with 112 million streams on Spotify, “From The Start.” Made viral on TikTok and the song truest to bossa nova on the album, Laufey describes the feeling of love at first sight. Or, if you prefer, a little feeling she’s had from the start. It’s the most upbeat song on the album, which is nice because the next song makes the listener crumble to pieces.

In by far the most personal song of the album, “A Letter To My 13 Year Old Self,” Laufey gives exactly what’s advertised. Her insecurities about curly hair, boys and feeling

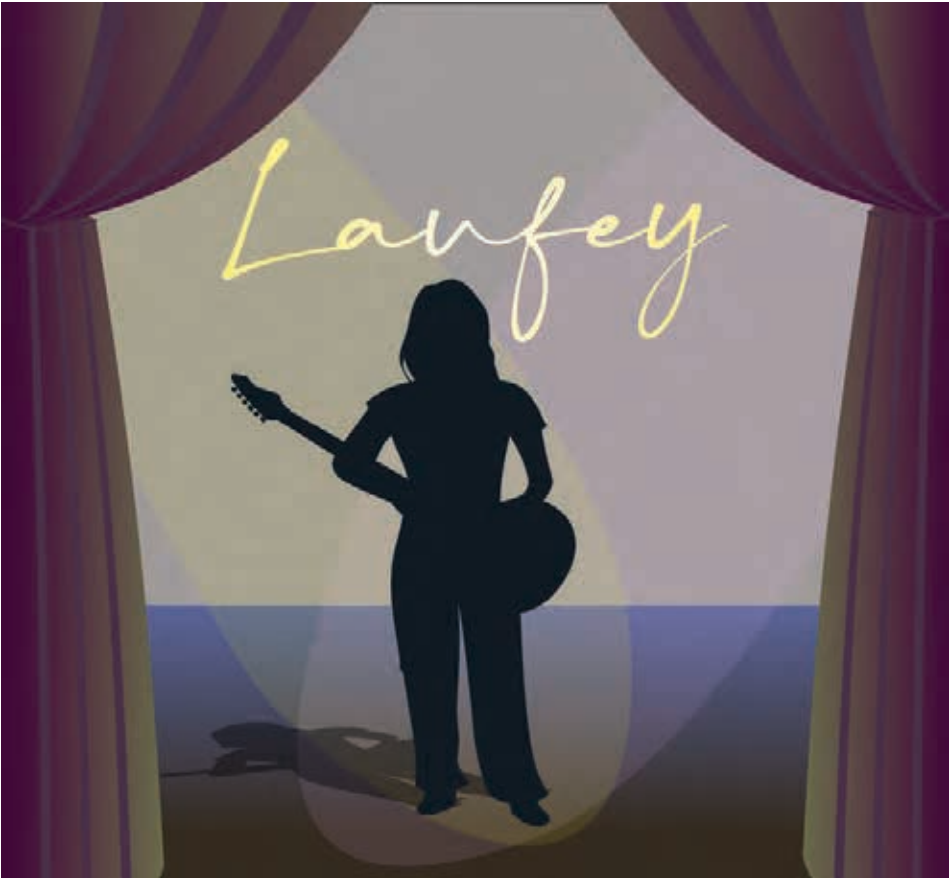


ILLUSTRATION BY KAYA DONAH

foreign after moving to the United States after growing up in Iceland are all heartbreaking to hear from such a renowned and mature master of her craft. Because no matter how desired Laufey may be now, her little 13-year-old self will never get that satisfaction.

Luckily, the very last song of the album takes a happier twist. The title track, “Bewitched,” is a song about finding her love, and learning just how nice that feeling can be. This is best illustrated in the lines, “The world froze around us, you kissed me good night / You bewitch me /

Every damn second you’re with me.”

Laufey’s “Bewitched” is an album that covers first crushes, brutal heartbreak and everything in between. Utilizing genre-bending techniques in a classical-jazz fusion, her music is one that has no choice but to evolve to the times. She’s effectively bringing younger generations in on genres that have long been gatekept. With tools as strong as social media and millions of teenagers on her side, Laufey is headed on a track to superstardom that will reach its goal before you know it.

How nighttime workouts are changing the fitness game

By **CHARLOTTE ROSS**
Contributing Writer

For those looking to stay fit while still catching up on their sleep, an option lies in store with its own set of noteworthy benefits. While I commend all the early birds out there with their acclimated sleep schedules and “go get ‘em” attitude in their chase for the worm, I know I speak for a large population of individuals who agree, early morning gym runs are just not for me. Whether you are a night owl or a sleep lover, don’t fret – there are plenty of worms left for you, too.

Late-night workouts can give you more flexibility in your schedule, but are also said to have their own set of unique health benefits, ranging widely from increased energy, improved muscular strength and even better sleep. But does the time of your workout really matter all that much? A 2022 study published by the International Journal of Exercise Science argues that it does.

The IJES observed the relationship between sleep and athletic performances in 18 NCAA Division III college athletes over a two-week period via the use of wristwatch monitors. Results showed that when waking up early for morning workouts, all of the athletes obtained

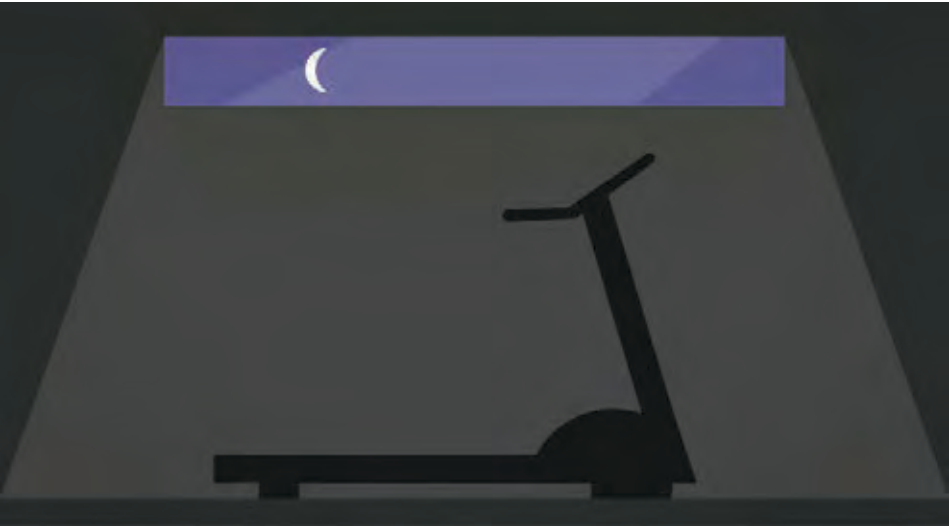


ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

significantly less total sleep than days when they didn’t have early practice, regardless of sex and sport. It was also found that in correlation with less total sleep time, the anxiety and recovery status in each of the athletes was also disrupted.

Even for all the non-collegiate athletes out there, an evening workout could have vast benefits for you, too. I find that sometimes after a long tedious day of sitting in class, a workout can be just the solution I need to de-stress and use up any extra energy I have left over.

Many people actually tend to have more energy saved towards the end of their day rather than in the morning, letting them get the absolute most out of their night time workout. According to a study from England’s University of Birmingham featured in Self Magazine, an individual’s performance peaks up to 11 hours after waking for late-risers, giving later gym-goers the ability to go up to 20% longer in their workouts at higher intensities.

Another unique benefit of working out in

the evening is one geared toward the more introverted of night owls. If you feel the gym is an especially intimidating place for you, you are not alone. I find that an extra crowded and busy gym can quickly hinder my confidence and lead me to question my abilities, especially when I’m by myself or trying something new.

Feelings of social anxiety and insecurity in the gym, known as “gymidation,” is actually a more common feeling than one might expect. According to a 2019 study conducted by The New York Post, one in two Americans said they felt intimidated at the thought of working out at a gym, and as many as 50% even defined the idea of working out amongst other people as a “daunting prospect.”

So, whether you are looking to spend some extra hours of your morning in bed, see changes in your sleep or fitness performance, or even regain control of those pesky socially anxious thoughts, going to the gym after hours might be a no-brainer. Try Planet Fitness, which has millions of locations nationwide that are open 24 hours, giving members the ability to get their workout in at all hours of the night.

Take a trip over to your local gym after a long day in classes or at work and give it a try. You might never go back to early gym runs again.

On the cusp of history

Quinnipiac women’s ice hockey enters pivotal season with high hopes

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

Quinnipiac women’s ice hockey recorded a program-best 15-1-2 first half in 2021-22. It bettered that last season, going 17-1 in its first 18 games. The back half of each campaign was considerably rockier, lowlighted by a sweep at St. Lawrence in February of 2022 and an embarrassing 11-3 loss at Princeton just shy of a year later.

Each time, however, the Bobcats rallied back into form for the ECAC Hockey Tournament, only to lose to Colgate in the semifinals. They then pulled it back together for the NCAA Tournament, just to lose to Ohio State in the regional round.

Two years in a row, two eerily similar results. Debatably the two most successful seasons in program history, stopped short of the ultimate goal by the same two teams. Even in 2015-16, Quinnipiac’s lone conference championship season, the Bobcats’ Frozen Four aspirations once again came to a halt in Columbus.

This season is the last kick at the can for the Bobcats’ long-time core. Most of players who were rostered for the COVID-impacted 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons are set for their final run in blue and gold.

“Its going to take a lot of work to have result be different than its been, but they want it, and that is the best place for us to be,” head coach Cass Turner said in the ECAC preseason coaches call. “They’re only going to be as strong as they are connected and that’s where they’re diving in right now, how well they can support each other and how connected can they be.”

Forward Lexie Adzija, who led Quinnipiac in scoring as a sophomore and a junior, graduated last spring, as did her co-captain Zoe Boyd, a defensive rock for the Bobcats.

Olivia Mobley, the forward who led the team in scoring the past two seasons, joined the enemy, transferring to Ohio State for her senior season.

What remains are five graduate students and five seniors hoping that the third time’s the charm, and this is the year they break through the regional round and book the program’s first trip to the Frozen Four.

The men’s team proved that saying has merit in April, turning its third Frozen Four appearance into a national championship. What will it take for the women to forge a similar fate?

REPLACING LOSSES

Adzija, Mobley and Boyd are not the only significant losses Quinnipiac suffered in the off-season. Forward Shay Maloney, a 15-goal scorer

a year ago, graduated and turned pro, as did defender Courtney Vorster. The two are set to play together for Leksands IF in Sweden this season.

The Bobcats will also be without goaltender Catie Boudiette, who stepped away from hockey in March. In three seasons for Quinnipiac, Boudiette has more career shutouts (nine) than games where she’s allowed a goal (six).

In their place enter a class of five new Bobcats, most notably BU graduate transfer forward Julia Nearis.

It’s the second-straight season Quinnipiac has brought in a graduate student ringer from a struggling east coast team. Last year it was Maloney from Brown, this year it’s Nearis — BU’s leading scorer in 2022-23. She’s not a traditional center, nor the shooter that Maloney was, but the Massachusetts native stepped up at the face-off dot last season and is capable of quarterbacking a power play. Where Nearis shines the most, however, is in drives to the net, where her speed and puck-handling ability have a habit of making defenders look stupid.

“She’s a phenomenal offensive hockey player,” Turner said. “She’s creative and patient with the puck, seeing her in practice, she just sees things in such a great light offensively so we’re excited to add that into our lineup.”

Joining Nearis out of the portal is sophomore forward Emerson Jarvis. The Albertan appeared in 20 games for national runner-up Ohio State last season, recording three points. Jarvis should see an elevated role in Hamden in 2023-24.

The clear star of the Bobcats’ three-woman

freshman class is forward Kahlen Lamarche. At 17 years old, Lamarche broke the OWHL U22 Elite scoring record last season, tallying 82 points in 42 games for an astounding 1.95 points per game. Her elite shot should help replace some of the team’s missing scoring output.

“(Lamarche) will certainly find the back of the net a ton this year,” Turner said.

Defender Brynne West and goaltender Lucy Phillips make up the remainder of Quinnipiac’s additions.

West is a lockdown defensive player who spent the past four years competing for the Chicago Mission program and Fenwick High School in Illinois, where she was an all-state selection. Phillips, who stands 5 feet, 10 inches, likely won’t see significant playing time this season, but projects to be a future starter with a strong frame and recovery ability.

FAMILIAR FACES RETURN

19 players return from last year’s team, including seven 20+ point scorers, led by junior forward Maya Labad (31) and graduate student forward Sadie Peart (28). On defense, All-ECAC Second Teamer Kendall Cooper, a senior, alongside classmate Maddy Samoskevich and graduate student Kate Reilly make up an experienced trio for the Bobcats.

In net, Logan Angers returns for a sixth year of college hockey, granted by COVID eligibility and a redshirt freshman season. Angers ranked top-10 in the NCAA last season in both goals against average and shutouts, highlighted by a

career-high 50-save performance in Quinnipiac’s triple overtime NCAA Tournament opening win over Penn State.

BOTTOM LINE

Like the past two seasons, the Bobcats will undoubtedly start strong, storming their way through a mediocre early-season non-conference schedule and likely the first half of conference play. But when the schedule moves out of the dead of winter and the lights get brighter, Quinnipiac has to turn up the heat.

The ECAC is arguably the strongest women’s conference in the NCAA, with six teams ranked in this week’s preseason USCHO poll. Quinnipiac has proven time and time again not just that it can hang with the big dogs, but that it is one. It shutout both ECAC champion Colgate and national champion Wisconsin last season.

They set the groundwork in 2021-22 and 2022-23 with two monumental NCAA Tournament wins. But there’s still work to be done. When they make that fateful walk to the ice in six months time with their season on the line, perhaps again in Columbus, what will it take to flip the script and send the Bobcats dancing further than they ever have before?

“We won 30 games, our men won 34 and they won a national championship,” Turner said. “That’s not to say that it’s just four more wins, it certainly is a big step, but I think for our group beating Wisconsin last season and seeing them go on to win the national championship, it’s feeling closer ... They expect big things.”



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac women’s ice hockey has two wins in four NCAA Tournament appearances, one win coming in each of the last two seasons.

KLEIN from 12
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et. She’s texted me pretty much after every game this year and offered some insight,” Klein said. “It’s been a very easy transition from player to assistant to head coach.”

Talking with Klein’s players, it became abundantly clear how resourceful it is to have a coach not only with a player’s perspective, but fresh experience stapled to long-term success.

“Nina just got out of college and played recently, so she knows what’s going on right now in the time which is really helpful to have,” graduate midfielder Julianna Cappello said. “All of our coaches are really young, so they always know what is going on in the game, which is great.”

Joining Klein on her support staff is first-year assistant head coach Madison Skeie, who joined the program after one year as an assistant with Monmouth. Alongside Skeie is Abby Lucas, who is entering her second year with the Bobcats. All three played Division I field hockey. These are the fresh faces in charge of Quinnipiac field hockey – a trend Klein feels is breathing new life into the sport.

“There’s a lot of great depth and great knowledge with the older generation of coaches, but I do think it’s definitely exciting to bring in a new wave and a new generation,” Klein said.

Klein realizes the importance of her assistant coaches, starting as one herself, and relies on their cooperation, expertise and commitment to the program to put the team in the best position to thrive.

Now that Klein has had time to test the waters of what the head coaching experience entails, she is able to contrast a few stark differences between her previous role and her current one. Managing playing time and rosters — decisions that have an immediate impact on the success of the team — proved to be growing pains early in Klein’s career. When it came to the biggest challenge that Klein has faced so far, her answer actually had nothing to do with field hockey at all.

“I would say (the biggest challenge) is finding time for my own self-care,” Klein said. “I’m putting a lot toward the team right now, and I want to make sure everything goes smoothly. So turning off my field hockey brain has been kind of hard.”

Klein confessed she sometimes finds herself thinking about the team at times when she should be thinking about herself, pondering practices and players instead of winding down after a long day. She admitted she sometimes can’t shake free from her work, bringing it home with her instead of leaving it at the field.

Why does she do it? Because she is replacing the only Quinnipiac head coach in program

history, taking over for the only name the school has ever known. In Klein’s eyes, she is doing it to give Main the respect she deserves.

“At the end of the day, I want to honor her legacy,” Klein said. “She saw the program go from Division II to Division I, (she saw) a change of conference and a change of mascot. I just want to make sure we’re doing everything we can to honor what she built.”

With all of her mentorship, Klein has built up an extensive collection of field hockey knowledge. She has developed her own system, one that she feels is best suited to bring success to a team she knows will work hard for it. Her mom, Doton, Stevens and Main have all molded and shaped Klein’s ideologies, allowing her to sculpt her own unique coaching style at Quinnipiac.

“She’s very dedicated to each and every player. She’s not only a coach, but she’s our mom,” junior forward Lucia Pompeo said. “She’s all work, pushing us when we need to be pushed and listening to us when we share our opinions.”

It is a system this year’s team has bought into — one that her players admire for its poise and harmony.

“Nina has a really good balance of being direct and to the point, and making sure that we’re getting everything done that needs to be done,” Cappello said. “(But we) also have a good time. The game is way more enjoyable when you’re

having fun. We have a good balance of that.”
It is difficult for any new coach to command a team the way Klein does. When you factor in the booming resume of Main, on top of it being Klein’s first season as the Bobcats’ leader, it can be especially difficult to conjure success on the field.
In their first two games, Klein and the Bobcats fell hard, starting 0-2 after losses to New Hampshire and UMass. On Sept. 8, Klein would find her first career win, a 2-1 victory over Dartmouth. In the days that followed, she would celebrate her first win streak, rattling off two more wins over Bryant and Providence to give Quinnipiac a winning record on the season.
“I’m just trying to take in every moment. Even when we won at Dartmouth, I didn’t expect to get so emotional in front of the team,” Klein said. “I don’t want to take any moment for granted, or move on and not actually take it in for what it is and feel the emotions that come up.”
In the recent months of her life, many emotions have surrounded Klein. The joy of that brief phone call in her office five months ago, to tears after her first official win as a head coach. The gratitude for all the coaches, mentors and teammates in her past, to the nostalgia of watching her sisters’ games growing up.
It’s been an emotional ride up to this point, but Klein is just getting started.

‘(Hamden) is a great place for my family to grow’

ROBINSON from 12

In came social studies teacher Pete Gannone, who saw potential in a young Robinson. “He saw I could go one of two directions,” Robinson said. “He didn’t want to lose me to the streets and the drug dealing and that crime life, because I was a hood kid.”

Gannone made the conscious decision to teach Robinson about a new sport: volleyball. He didn’t know that sport would shape his future — he just wanted to give Robinson something to hang his hat on as he grew up.

“They were the catalyst of not just my career, but my entire life after that,” Robinson said.

Robinson joined forces with the other students that Gannone took under his wing and formed the school’s first boys volleyball team, which showed him that sports could be as big as he chose to make them.

“In retrospect, I think we were pretty good,” Robinson said. “I remember it being competitive. And I remember just feeling like, ‘Oh, this is legit, right?’ without ever having known anything about the sport or the future or where it would take me.”

That was the first domino. It was a domino that in sequence led to him playing college volleyball at LIU Southampton, becoming a professional player abroad, joining the U.S. National Team and then finding a passion for coaching.

With that passion, he earned a job at the Air Force Academy, won five NEC championships at LIU Brooklyn and after joining the program in 2019, led Quinnipiac to its first-ever conference title in 2022, forever etching his name into Bobcats history.

On this journey, Robinson touched the lives of everyone he encountered, creating what he calls “one of the biggest families in the world.”

And in any family, there are stories that deserve to be told:

‘EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE HAS BEEN HELPED ALONG BY PEOPLE WHO GAVE A CRAP ABOUT ME’

When Robinson first attended LIU Southampton, head coach Scott Gleason could see how different of a situation it was for the 21-year-old.

“He was out of his element,” Gleason said. “He’s from Philly. We were in the Hamptons. You know, the beach houses that are millions of dollars ... He took a little while to get comfortable. But he was always really good at trying to at least be a good teammate. I know he was hard on himself. He got frustrated, I think more with himself trying to reach a certain level.”

Then again, he wasn’t much different from the rest of his teammates.

“They’re a bunch of knuckleheads,” Gleason said. “You get them out of high school. They think they’re the shit. You’re like, ‘OK, first off, there are rules and expectations and you gotta grow up.’ Then you throw them in the fire with matches, then they learn and grow.”

Robinson did grow, eventually becoming one of two players from his college squad to play professionally.

The moment that growth became apparent



COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Kyle Robinson (right) pictured above during his tenure as an assistant coach at Oklahoma, where he coached from 2015-18.

to Gleason was during a 650-mile car ride the pair shared from Southampton to Columbus, Ohio, in May 1997. Robinson was set to participate in a U.S. national team tryout.

“(Robinson and I spent 10)-some odd hours in the car together,” Gleason said. “I think he always had quiet confidence about what he could do. But it’s just a whole different element because he was now with a bunch of guys that were really like him. So I think that that weekend was just kind of cool.”

The positive perception of the moment is mutual.

“(Gleason) saw an opportunity for me, so he was going to support me,” Robinson said. “At that point in my life, I was very comfortable with him. It wasn’t, ‘Oh, a 10 hour drive with my coach.’ And as much as he was a coach, he was also a really big mentor in my life.”

While it likely did not mean much to the pair at the moment, it was a story that both look back on with fondness, especially Robinson.

“So I remember that drive being just chill,” Robinson said. “I was able to talk to someone almost as an equal and not like, ‘this is my coach.’ That’s kind of what kick-started my pro career.”

Robinson may have been that new kid in Southampton still figuring it out, but he had a willingness to figure it out. That fight was what made Gleason and others believe in him.

“Everything in my life, and I really mean everything, has been helped along by people who gave a crap about me,” Robinson said. “A lot of people who are family to me, but we don’t share the same blood. People who looked after me, mentored me and helped me question myself when I was maybe doing things that were wrong, or maybe not the right thing for me at the time.”

The belief in Robinson that changed his life became his motivation to help others.

‘I’M CRAZY, BUT I AIN’T STUPID’

Robinson’s career is a story that cannot be told without mentioning three letters: LIU. Whether it is his time as a player at LIU Southampton or as a coach at LIU Brooklyn, twice has Robinson given years of his life to those three letters, and twice have those letters let him down.

Stony Brook University bought the LIU Southampton Campus in 2005. LIU Brooklyn merged with LIU Post in 2018 to create a unified Long Island University. As a result, the two schools that helped Robinson form into the person he is, no longer exist.

When the merger happened, Brooklyn’s mascot, the Blackbird, and its history was cut off, starting over as the LIU Sharks. This left

the Blackbird alumni without an identity to look back on.

“It was a kick in the balls. Straight up,” Robinson said. “Making moves in disregard of the people is pretty crappy in my opinion. That’s what I saw happening at LIU.”

With the Southampton campus sold, Robinson and Gleason were left with no alma mater to call their own or return to in the way they remember it.

“When I got the phone call, I wasn’t shocked,” Gleason said. “I was just pissed. I spent 11 years trying to develop something. I guess you don’t really expect it to happen, right? Small businesses shut down. You don’t expect schools to shut down.”

Even before Robinson’s coaching tenure at LIU Brooklyn ended, the “disregard of the people” became apparent to him, contributing to his departure from the program on his own terms.

“I felt like I had done all I (could) with that program,” Robinson said. “I just didn’t see where it was going. I also started seeing the writing on the wall.”

Having felt that the university nullified all he had done to that point, Robinson left in 2015 to be an assistant coach at Oklahoma.

“Honestly, if they would have just done right by me immediately, then I would probably have stayed,” Robinson said. “Then when I had already made the decision and told them I was going to go to OU, they somehow miraculously found money for me.”

Robinson’s response to the new offer was short and sweet.

“I’m crazy, but I ain’t stupid.”

After all that happened with Robinson at LIU, he believes that if he stayed, he would still be there. However, even after being offered the job to coach there again, Robinson stood his ground and understood his own value.

“I just laugh,” Robinson said. “A, you shouldn’t have let me go. B, you can’t afford me now.”

‘IF YOU WANT THE GRASS TO BE GREENER, THEN WATER IT’

For a Robinson-coached team, what matters most is having the right group of people.

After becoming the Quinnipiac head coach in 2019, it took Robinson four years to win a MAAC championship. Those four seasons included plenty of gradual improvement, including a few runs in the MAAC Tournament. While the team never went all the way, it was because he needed the right people.

So the fact that the 2022 team went the distance made things special, even considering he had five prior conference championships in his career.

“It was just a more like a nostalgic type of feeling when winning this year,” Robinson said. “I had been there before, but it was just this nostalgic, like, ‘Oh, this is what I remember.’”

Leading the program, and in turn, the university, to a destination it had never been also helped Robinson recognize it wasn’t just him that got them there.

“I’m so proud of our university, not just our team, but all the support that helped us get to that point,” Robinson said. “So proud for (Director of Athletics) Greg (Amodio) who was there, and then to see his dream of turning volleyball into something tangibly cool come to fruition.”

A Division I mid-major coach with as much championship experience as Robinson is primed to have opportunities to coach at higher levels.

When asked about if other schools reach out to him with job opportunities, Robinson responded, “all the time.”

So why does he stay?

“I love it,” he said. “I love the people. I love my leadership here. I love my staff. I love my team. I love the location. You name it. You know, this is a great place for my family to grow up and to be raised. We’re thriving.”

In a day and age where college players and coaches switch schools often, Robinson’s unique perspective could be seen as old-fashioned.

“We all are looking for bigger and better and looking at greener pastures,” Robinson said. “That’s not always the best thing. If you want the grass to be greener, then water it, take care of it, fertilize it, tend to it.”

As a result, Robinson is content with the family and the culture he has developed at Quinnipiac and plans to stay for the foreseeable future, allowing his influence to spread and positively impact the rest of the university.

Even as he nears 50 years of age, only recently did he find the time to ditch his modest demeanor for just a moment and take note of all he’s accomplished.

“(The first time) that I thought I was pretty good (at volleyball)?” Robinson said. “I don’t know. Last week? I’ve done some pretty cool things in this sport, but you have to be humble about it. You have to understand that it comes and goes.”

The self-described “hood kid” from Philadelphia has come a long way.

“Now, I guess, I’m a hood man.”

An extended version with several more excerpts from Robinson’s career can be found at quchronicle.com.

“He always had a quiet confidence about what he could do.”

**– Scott Gleason
FORMER HEAD COACH,
LIU SOUTHAMPTON**



Sports

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Stories from the life and career of Kyle Robinson

CAMERON LEVASSEUR/CHRONICLE

‘One of the biggest families in the world’

By **MICHAEL LAROCCA**
Opinion Editor

Kyle Robinson grew up in West Oak Lane, a neighborhood located on the north side of Philadelphia. His local high school was Martin Luther King, a place known to foster and perpetuate the crime-ridden nature of the area. During Robinson’s high school years in the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, there were nearly 1,800 homicides in the city of Philadelphia, over 60% of them caused by firearms. Robinson could have gone to that school and very easily gone down that path. He didn’t. Because he had a family who made sure that never happened. They had a different vision for him. “My parents knew I wasn’t going to survive at Martin Luther King High,” Robinson said. “Had I gone to King, there’s no way I’d be here right now. I probably wouldn’t be alive right now.” His parents instead chose to send their son on a 45-minute ride — across three city buses — over to Roxborough High School, the setting that put Robinson’s life in motion. Statistically, Roxborough was not significantly better. However, it gave Robinson a better chance. Not only did it give him a better chance at graduating high school, but it gave him a better chance at avoiding the gangs and crime associated with inner-city Philadelphia. A better chance at finding a passion. While there, Robinson joined the swim team to stay busy. But after three years, he decided not to continue with it, leaving him without an outlet for the first time in his high school career.

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‘I don’t want to take any moment for granted’

A three-time national champion as a player, Nina Klein is building a new legacy on the sideline at Quinnipiac

By **ZACHARY CARTER**
Staff Writer

Five months ago, Nina Klein was sitting at her desk in her office in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, when she received a phone call. The then-Boston College assistant coach was among several candidates being considered for the Quinnipiac field hockey head coaching gig. On the other end of the line was Sarah Fraser, deputy director of athletics at Quinnipiac. Klein picked up the phon. The job was hers. “I just remember being so, so happy,” Klein said. “It was an amazing feeling. Quinnipiac was my home and (coming back) was something that I always dreamed of.” Klein got her coaching start under former head coach Becca Main when she was hired as an assistant coach in May 2018 before being promoted to associate head coach in July of 2019. In April 2022, Klein left the Bobcats after four years to join the Eagles for one season in the ACC. In college, Klein played for five seasons as a goalkeeper for the University of Connecticut. On the field, she saw impeccable success. In addition to three NCAA national championships (2013, 2014, 2017), she set multiple program records including all-time wins (80) and shut-outs (42). In 2017, Klein’s final season, she was named a First Team All-American. Prior to her last dance as a redshirt senior, Klein made sure her academics were in order, working to accelerate a master’s degree in sports management. It was a decision she made to prepare for life outside of the net, yet one that would keep her entangled in the sport she loves.

Paired with the experience she gained during her time as a player, Klein dove headfirst into the sea of coaching — an adventure that she initially struggled with. “My first job interview was at Towson in Maryland,” Klein said. “I’m very much a gut feeling person, so when I went there I was like, ‘I don’t know, I don’t see myself here ... And then within two weeks of that interview, Becca Main picked up the phone.” The phone call from Main came almost five years ago. It was a call that would signal the start of a prosperous career in Hamden. When Klein met with Main to tour the university, she felt an instant attraction. “As soon as I came down I was in awe,” Klein said. “The stadium and campus were both stunning. I knew something special could be built.” But it was not during her days as a Husky when Klein realized coaching was in her future. It was much, much earlier. Having two older sisters, she grew up watching field hockey at her sisters’ games. In middle school, her mom became her first coach. The sport was a family affair, one she was constantly surrounded by. Klein learned very quickly that her mother would not be the last coach to leave a major impact on her. Through her years as a Husky, Bobcat, Eagle and back to a Bobcat, she played and worked under several titans of the collegiate field hockey head-coaching world. Klein’s year with Boston College exposed her to the likes of Kelly Doton, the school’s most formidable head coach in the nation’s most prestigious Division 1 field hockey conference. With Doton having operated the Eagles for almost a

decade, Klein made sure to soak up all she could in her presence. As if one season with Doton and four seasons under the wings of Main, a winner of 214 games, four-time conference coach of the year and the woman responsible for three berths in the NCAA tournament, wasn’t enough, Klein learned from and played under UConn’s illustrious Nancy Stevens for five seasons. Considered to be one of, if not the greatest collegiate field hockey coach of all time, Stevens’ 700 career wins are only second to Karen Shelton of North Carolina. Stevens dispatched Klein as her netminder in each of the Husky’s three national championship runs, and stands as

the epitome of success for all coaches to model. “(Stevens) was my longtime coach and she’s still one of my greatest mentors,” Klein said. “Just being in a program like that, everything that we were doing was centered around winning. It was obviously exciting, but it showed that we had so much trust with our coaches.” Now that Klein has stepped into her first full-time head coaching role, she feels comfortable knowing she has some of the game’s most knowledgeable figures in her corner whenever she needs. “I still have Nancy Stevens in my back pocket.”

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AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Nina Klein is currently 3-2 since taking over as Quinnipiac’s head coach on April 28.